

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /066 W

----- 122042

R 130926Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHC 7391

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

UNCLAS MANILA 10210

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, VN/US

SUBJECT: PHANHIEN REMARKS ON US/DRV RELATIONS

1. FOLLOWING IS TAPE-RECORDED TEXT OF REMARKS BY SRV
DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER PHAN HIEN ON SUBJECT OF US/SRV
RELATIONS DELIVERED AT JULY 13 PRE-DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE
IN MANILA. PHAN SPOKE THROUGH AN INTERPRETER.)

QUOTE: AND NOW REGARDING THE QUESTION ON OUR TALKS WITH
THE UNITED STATES...THAT IS TO SAY THE U.S. REQUEST FOR TALKS
WITH US ON THE QUESTION OF MISSION IN ACTION (MIA). I
WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOME IDEAS TO SPEAK TO YOU CONCERNING
THIS MATTER. AFTER THE TOTAL LIBERATION OF OUR COUNTRY, WE
STATED EXPLICITLY OUR POINT OF VIEW CONCERNING THE PARIS
AGREEMENT ON VIETNAM. IN THE PARIS AGREEMENT, IT REMAINS
ARTICLES WHICH ARE INVALID. ARTICLE 1 STATING THAT THE
UNITED STATES AND OTHER COUNTRIES RECOGNIZE THE
NATIONAL FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF THE VIETNAM PEOPLE.
ARTICLE 8B CONCERNING THE QUESTION OF MIA. FOR INSTANCE,
ARTICLE 21 REGARDING THE CONTRIBUTION BY THE UNITED STATES
TO THE HEALING OF WOUNDS OF WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION OF VIETNAM --
THE POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION OF VIETNAM. THESE ARTICLES

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ARE STILL VALID AND THE SENTIMENTS OF THESE ARE TO PROCEED

TO ARTICLE 22 WHICH IS THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN VIETNAM AND THE UNITED STATES. CONCERNING THE ARTICLE 8B, WE HAVE MADE EFFORTS, FOR INSTANCE, WE HAVE PROVIDED THEM SOME INFORMATIONS AND HANDED OVER TO THEM A NUMBER OF THE REMAINS OF THE AMERICANS DEAD. THE POSITION TAKEN BY THE AMERICANS IS THE PARIS AGREEMENT NO LONGER EXISTS. THAT IS WHY THEY REFUSE TO IMPLEMENT ARTICLE 21 CONCERNING THE CONTRIBUTION TO THE HEALING OF THE WOUNDS OF WAR THOUGH THE FACT IS THAT BESIDE ARTICLE 21, IT WAS PRESIDENT NIXON HIMSELF (WHO) SENT A MESSAGE -- A LETTER -- TO OUR PRIME MINISTER PHAM VAN DONG REGARDING THE QUESTION OF THE U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO THE HEALING OF THE WOUNDS OF WAR. IN THIS LETTER HE COMMITTED THAT THE U.S. WOULD CONTRIBUTE A CERTAIN SUM OF MONEY. THE SUM OF MONEY WAS \$3,250,000,000 WITHIN THE PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS. BUT THEY ARE INSISTING IN ASKING US TO IMPLEMENT ARTICLE 8B OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT WHILE THEY ARE REFUSING TO IMPLEMENT ARTICLE 21 OF THE SAME AGREEMENT. I HAVE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW AND INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE. HOWEVER, RECENTLY THE U.S. PROPOSED TO HAVE TALKS WITH US CONCERNING THE QUESTIONS OF THE MIA AND OTHER QUESTIONS. WE REAFFIRMED OUR POSITION AS WHAT I HAVE JUST EXPLAINED TO YOU AND WE HOPE (OR HOLD) THAT THE SETTLEMENTS BY BOTH SIDES OF THE QUESTIONS OF MUTUAL CONCERN IS A NECESSARY ONE. THAT IS WHY WE ARE PREPARED TO TALK WITH THE AMERICANS. WHEN AND WHERE THESE TALKS WILL BE -- THAT IS A SECRET OF DIPLOMACY I CAN NOT TELL YOU RIGHT NOW.

2. COMMENT: PHAN HIEN RECEIVED ALL QUESTIONS AND THEN ANSWERED THOSE HE SELECTED TO ADDRESS AT END OF PRESS CONFERENCE. TIME HE DEVOTED TO US/SRV RELATIONS WAS CONSIDERABLY GREATER THAN THAT ALLOCATED TO ANY OTHER SUBJECT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MIA, AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANILA10210
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760269-0876
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760765/aaaaceqe.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: schaeafaj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 FEB 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2004 by schaeafaj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PHANHIEU REMARKS ON US/DRV RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, VN, US, (PHAN HIEN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006